

Appl. No. 10/007,186  
Amdt. Dated: September 12, 2005  
Office Action Dated: May 13, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of preventing defective germination ~~or~~ and defective rosette formation of a plant seed which tends to suffer from defective germination ~~or~~ and defective rosette formation during growth thereof comprising the steps of:

a) leaving the plant seed to stand in a highly watery condition at a low temperature in a dark place for a ~~sufficient~~ period of time of from several days to several months to inhibit defective germination ~~or~~ and defective rosette formation of the plant seed, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating; and

b) drying the plant seed immediately after leaving the plant seed to stand in the highly watery condition at the low temperature in a dark place, before the seed becomes active, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating.

wherein in the step a) of leaving the plant seed in a highly watery condition the plant seed is immersed in water at a temperature of from 0 °C to 15 °C. ~~15 °C, and~~

~~wherein in the step b) of drying the plant seed the dark place is sufficiently dark to prevent exposure of the plant seed to an amount of light that is sufficient to cause the plant seed to germinate.~~

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Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A method of preventing at least one of defective germination ~~or and defective~~ rosette formation of a plant seed which tends to suffer from defective germination ~~or and/or defective~~ rosette formation during growth thereof comprising the steps of:

a) leaving the plant seed to stand in a highly watery condition at a low temperature in a dark place for a ~~sufficient~~ period of time of from several days to several months to inhibit defective germination or defective rosette formation of the plant seed, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating; and

b) drying the plant seed immediately after leaving the plant seed to stand in the highly watery condition at the low temperature in a dark place, before the seed becomes active, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating.

wherein in the step a) of leaving the plant seed in a highly watery condition the plant seed is exposed to an environment having a relative humidity of about 100% and a temperature of from 0 °C to 15 °C. 15 °C, and

~~wherein in the step b) of drying the plant seed the dark place is sufficiently dark to prevent exposure of the plant seed to an amount of light that is sufficient to cause the plant seed to germinate.~~

Claim 5 (New): A method of preventing defective germination rosette formation of a plant seed which tends to suffer from defective rosette formation during growth thereof comprising the steps of:

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a) leaving the plant seed to stand in a highly watery condition at a low temperature in a dark place for a period of time of from several days to several months to inhibit defective rosette formation of the plant seed, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating; and

b) drying the plant seed immediately after leaving the plant seed to stand in the highly watery condition at the low temperature in a dark place, before the seed becomes active, the dark place being sufficiently dark to prevent the plant seed from germinating,

wherein in the step a) of leaving the plant seed in a highly watery condition the plant seed is immersed in water at a temperature of from 0 °C to 15 °C.